

"Family Farms Must be Protected from Burdensome, Costly Federal Red Tape"

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence released the following statement today in support of the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act (H.R. 1633). This bill would exempt farm dust from the Clean Air Act unless the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency can prove it is a significant problem and that applying the proposed standard is worth the costs. Dust from agricultural activities has never been shown to have a health impact at ambient levels. The bill clarifies that states and localities are the rightful authority in regulating dust. Pence's statement follows:

"Farm dust is quite simply the everyday dirt and dust present in rural America on fields and country roads. It occurs naturally from dry weather or wind blowing across wide open spaces. Or it can be caused by the act of farming – tilling the land or harvesting crops. If you come from rural areas like my home in eastern Indiana, you know that farm dust is a part of daily life, and if you make a living on a farm, you probably have never even given farm dust a second thought.

"But, the EPA, despite the fact that rural farm dust has not been shown to pose a significant health concern, has done nothing to clarify the difference between rural farm dust and harmful pollutants that are common in urban areas. This legislation differentiates farm dust from these harmful air pollutants and gives family farms the certainty of knowing the federal government will not regulate their windblown soil."

"Mr. Speaker, the EPA needs to leave farmers alone and let them get about the business of farming.

"The Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act will go a long way in securing the long-term stability of family farms and rural businesses. It would limit the EPA's regulation of this naturally occurring dust by giving state and local governments the ability to address the issue, and it would delay any new National Ambient Air Quality Standards issued by the EPA for one year.

"In this difficult economy, family farms must be protected from burdensome, costly federal red tape. The EPA has no business regulating the dirt kicked up on the farms and back roads of

rural Indiana, and I urge my colleagues to support this common sense legislation."

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